



Andrew Wilkie MP
INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR DENISON

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The Hon Mike Gaffney MLC
Chair
Joint Select Committee on Future Gaming Markets
Parliament House
HOBART TAS 7000

Dear Chair

Please find enclosed a copy of Dr James Boyce's new book *Losing Streak: How Tasmania was gamed by the gambling industry*. This damning account of the history of gambling regulation in Tasmania is obviously essential reading in your work as a member of the Tasmanian Joint Select Committee on Future Gaming Markets investigating whether or not to extend Federal Group's monopoly licence. I hope you'll find it a useful manual on how not to regulate poker machines in Tasmania.

Losing Streak charts the back-room deals and deeply flawed processes that led to one company, Federal Hotels, winning the licence to own every poker machine in Tasmania. The author draws on his experience as a social worker and acclaimed historian to set out the cost of this monopoly deal for problem gamblers and their families, the public purse, and ultimately to democracy and good governance.

I'm confident I speak for a great many Tasmanians when I say now is the time for real reform. Tasmanians want poker machines removed from their communities and genuinely effective harm minimisation measures implemented including \$1 maximum bets.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Wilkie MP
Independent Member for Denison